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| CLASSIFICATION SECRET | | |
| COUNTRY East Germany | REPORT | |
| TOPIC Military Activities at the Wittstock Training Grounds and in the Area | | 25X1 |
| north of Rathenow | | 25X1 |
| EVALUATION | PLACE OBTAINED | 25X1 |
| DATE OF CONTENT | | 25X1 |
| DATE OBTAINED | DATE PREPARED 11 July 1955 | |
| REFERENCES | This is UNEVALUATED Information | |
| PAGES 2 | ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) | |
| REMARKS | 25X1 | |

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1. On 17/18 June 1955, the barrier on the Schweinrich-Zechlin road was guarded by sentries; the road was blocked. Groups of 2 to 3 guns were emplaced in the northeast portion of the Wittstock training grounds. The guns pointed southward. At about 2000 on 19 June, heavy artillery firing toward the south started in the Lutterow area. It was learned that the units stationed at the training grounds had apparently transferred there from Neuruppin by road.
2. It was learned that cantonment buildings of Camp Schweinrich were dismantled and were shipped toward Wittstock and Rheinsberg.
3. On 15 June, an exercise, which started from an assembly area near Lutterow and developed toward the south, was held in the eastern portion of the Wittstock training grounds. The exercise involved 42 T-34 and T-54 tanks and medium SP guns. About 4 companies of infantrymen wearing red-bordered black epaulets went to the assembly area by truck. At about 0900, the exercise started with a firing with live ammunition of all weapons. Subsequently, the troops advanced southward. Three observation towers in Jagen (forest section) No 201 near Neu-Glienicke were occupied by Russian and KVP officers. According to Netzeband and Fretzdorf inhabitants, armored KVP units had been unloaded there on 14 June. Upon termination of the exercise, the units left toward Neuruppin, Rheinsberg and Rottstiel.

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At 0900 on 16 June, 10 T-54 tanks arrived in Jagen No 92 of the Neu-Glienicke section and were stored there. Aiming silhouettes and dummy AT guns and tanks were placed in Jagen Nos 100 and 120. At 2200, the tanks started firing at these targets which were not lighted. It was a dark night. The firing terminated at about 0200 on 17 June. When the tanks left, it was observed that a box-like device of about 50 x 60 cm, about 15 cm high, was hanging on the back side of the tank turrets. The narrow front side of the device was fitted with a pale-blue glass pane.

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On 22 and 24 June, approximately 10 tanks of various types practiced driving and aiming in the Neu-Glienicke area. At about 0900 on 25 June, several tank units approached the Neu-Glienicke area from the direction of Altruppin.¹

4. Between 15 and 25 June, barracks sections from Camp Schweinrich were daily trucked toward Neuruppin and Fuerstenberg.²

5. On occasion of the last tank exercises, it was determined that a tank company consisted of 10 tanks and a battalion of 20 tanks plus 1 commander's tank. Up to 4 different types of tanks were observed with one company.³

6. The engineer units with pontoons which had been observed at the bent of the Havel River, 5 km north of Rathenow, in early June, were still there on 22 June. On 24 June, no Soviet soldiers were observed in this area.⁴

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. For information on exercises of tank units of the 12th Gds Tank Div at the Wittstock training grounds after mid-June, compare with reports by other sources from the Neuruppin post.

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[REDACTED] Joint exercises of Soviet and KVP units, however, at a smaller scale, have repeatedly been reported since the beginning of 1955. The observations made during the night firing of T-54 tanks on 16 June quite definitely indicate that night sighting equipment was used.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. The dismantling and shipping away of barracks sections from Camp Schweinrich had repeatedly been reported by various sources.

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3. [REDACTED] Comment. The information on the organization of tank battalions agrees with the assumed organization of medium tank battalions. It is, however, for the first time observed that a tank company is equipped with tanks of different types.

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4. [REDACTED] Comment. According to this and other sources, engineer units of the 88th Engr Regt (?) of the Second Gds Mecz Army have been stationed in the area north of Rathenow since 1 June. [REDACTED]. The units may have been retransferred to their Neubrandenburg post on 24 June.

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